

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. In response to the office action, applicants have amended claim 12. Claims 1-20 remain pending for reconsideration.

An Information Disclosure Statement is submitted herewith to have the U.S. Patent Application No. 10/404,975, noted in the specification, formally considered by the Examiner.

The drawings were objected because of the recitation 'spaced from the connector' in claim 12 not being explicitly shown in the drawings. Applicants have canceled this feature from claim 12. Applicants note that this is a broadening amendment and no claim scope or equivalents is surrendered by way of this amendment. In fact, the claim scope has been broadened. Moreover, applicants specifically do not disclaim guides spaced from the connector. As noted in the specification, in different embodiments, the guide may abut the connector, may be integral with the connector, or may be spaced from the connector. Claim 12 as amended broadly covers these and other embodiments.

Applicants note that because the feature is canceled from the claim, replacement drawing sheets are not necessary.

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,637,004 (Chen). Claims 11-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejection for the following reasons.

Claim 1 recites, among other things that the guide is adapted to inhibit lateral movement of the card. Claim 12 recites, among other things, inhibiting lateral movement of the card with the guide. Chen fails to teach or suggest this feature.

The office action cites the walls 34 of the housing for allegedly corresponding to the recited guide, but only generally asserts, without citation to any supporting portion of Chen, that Chen discloses that the walls 34 are adapted to inhibit lateral movement of the card (102). However, this unsupported assertion is incorrect.

The walls 34 collectively form the housing 32 of the connector 100. But the walls 34 do not inhibit lateral movement of the card 102. Applicants first note that the office action fails to identify any portion of Chen which describes the walls 34 inhibiting lateral movement of the card 102. If the rejection is maintained, applicants respectfully request a new **non-final** action setting forth the Examiner's position and identifying the relied upon portion of Chen with particularity, so that a full and fair response may be made.

In any event, applicants can find no supporting text in Chen describing any portion of the walls 34 inhibiting lateral movement of the card 102. With reference to Figs. 7A through 7D, and Fig. 10A of Chen, it appears that the slots in the walls 34 provide a clearance for a short portion of the card 102 to protrude therethrough, but the walls 34 do not even contact the card 102. Therefore, the walls 34 do not inhibit lateral movement of the card 102. Accordingly, neither the text description nor the drawings of Chen teach or suggest a guide adapted to inhibit lateral movement of the card, or as recited in claim 12, inhibiting lateral movement of the card with the guide.

Because Chen fails to teach or suggest a guide is adapted to inhibit lateral movement of the card, claim 1 is not anticipated by and is patentable over Chen. Claims 2-11 depend from claim 1 and are likewise patentable.

Because Chen fails to teach or suggest inhibiting lateral movement of the card with the guide, claim 12 is patentable over Chen. Claims 13-20 depend from claim 12 and are likewise patentable.

With respect to claim 2, Chen does not teach or suggest that the walls 34 provide a side constraint for the card 102. Moreover, the card 102 does not protrude sufficiently beyond the walls 34 to even involve lateral flexing of the card 102. Applicants note that Chen is not concerned with and does not even mention lateral flexing of the card 102.

With respect to claim 3, the walls 34 do not contact the card 102. Applicants note that the relied upon Fig. 6 is a perspective view which does not provide sufficient detail to determine whether or not the walls 34 contact the card 102. However, there is no supporting description of Fig. 6 or elsewhere in Chen which describes the walls 34 contacting the card 102. Upon review of the more detailed Figs. 7A-7D and 10A, it is clear that the walls 34 provide clearance for the card 102, but do not contact the side

surfaces of the card 102. In fact, the text description of Chen makes clear that Figs. 7A-7D are the more detailed views of Fig. 6. The Examiner must also consider those portions of Chen which teach away from the claims.

With respect to claim 4, applicants note that Figs. 7A-7D and 10A show substantial clearance between the walls 34 and the card 102. Accordingly, the walls 34 do not contact two opposed side surfaces of the card 102.

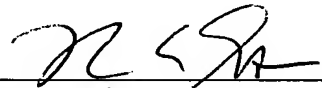
In view of the foregoing, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested. Early notification of the same is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions regarding the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

November 11, 2004

Date

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